




**Bible Readings**  
**Matthew 14:22-33**  
**Romans 10: 5-15**

*Response after Bible Readings*  
 Leader: Hear the word of the Lord  
 Response: Thanks be to God




Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.  
 Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.  
**OPEN FROM 9.30AM**

**Livestreaming at  
 8am & 9.30am only**

**8am—Worship**  
 Led by Pamela Leslie  
 and Albert Olley

**9am—Worship @ Willows**  
 Led by Warren Arthur

**9.30am—Worship**  
 Led by Hugh Darling  
 and Matt Godfrey

**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

**6.45pm—Worship**  
*includes*  
**Table Talk Conversation**  
**Community Meal**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**What's happening this week at St. Matthew's**

**MONDAY 14 AUGUST**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing**  
 for Op Shop lower hall

**TUESDAY 15 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation**  
 in the church

**WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches**  
 upstairs hall  
**10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea**  
 Mckels café Bella Vista.  
**7pm—Finance Committee Meeting**  
 lower hall

**THURSDAY 17 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 18 AUGUST**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SATURDAY 19 AUGUST**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SUNDAY  
 20 AUGUST**  
**8am—Worship**  
  
**9.30am—Worship**  
**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

**6.45pm—Worship**



**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS  
 MINISTRY WORKER**  
 DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
 Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**  
 MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
 Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**  
 ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI  
**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

**LOCATION:**  
 CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
 BAULKHAM HILLS

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**  
 BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
 PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**FACEBOOK:**  
 @stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570  
 SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
 PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153  
**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

# Lectionary Notes

## Pentecost 11

### August 13

**Genesis 37:1-4,12-28** Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber's musical, "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" made this story widely known. Jacob loved his son Joseph, "the son of his old age," and gave him a coat of many colours. Joseph had dreams in which he was the one in the centre and the one worshipped. His eleven brothers came to hate him for this, and when the chance came, planned to kill him. At the last minute his brother Judah suggested instead he be sold to slave traders. And he was - for twenty pieces of silver. Off to Egypt he is taken. So begins the longest cycle of stories in Genesis. Thirteen chapters are focused on the extraordinary life of Joseph, the one who could interpret dreams and eventually ruled in Egypt. In this first of the chapters the family of Jacob were living in the land promised to Abraham. By the end of the book of Genesis the twelve tribes of Israel were living in Egypt. Next week is the last in the Joseph saga. The stage is then set for the beginning of the book of Exodus when we are introduced to Moses and the account of how God led the Hebrew people, the twelve tribes of Israel, back to the promised land.

**Psalms 85:8-13** The Psalm begins with the terrible disaster of 688 BC. Solomon's temple was destroyed by the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar, the Jerusalem leadership exiled to Babylon, many people killed and the rest left at the mercy of the conquerors. While in exile in Babylon the words of the prophets came back to them. A rebellious people had come to believe that despite anything they did, God would preserve the temple, for God was with them there. The prophets had warned them. They did not listen. In verse 4. "Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us." And then from verse 8 "Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people." And verse 10, "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other." Verse 12, "The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase." The people of Israel live with the Lord who brings new beginnings. When the nation had been destroyed God was raising it up again.

**Romans 10:5-15** Paul, in verse 2 says of his people, "They have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened." He says they are ignorant of the righteousness which comes from God, having replaced God's righteousness with a version of their own! It is a recurrent matter for Israel, and the rest of the world, especially now. In the passage to be read, Paul contrasts the righteousness that comes from the law given by Moses with the righteousness that comes from faith. This righteousness is not about what we have to do or where we have to go, rather it is a righteousness that is so close to us. For "the word is near you on your lips and in your heart, that is the word of faith that we proclaim". This is the word that brings us righteousness, and brings us into relationship with God. It is the acknowledging of what God did in Christ Jesus. "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved." Instead of starting with ourselves and our life, start with what God has done in our midst and let your life be reframed in terms of what God does. This free us to live alive to God. It is so simple, but at the same time difficult. We grow up with our life as the reference point for our view of who we are, and we are used to leaving God out. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (The Greek word saved *swzw* is so rich and encompassing of life. In other parts of the New Testament it is also translated rescued, healed, delivered, preserved)

**Matthew 14:22-23** This passage follows on from the feeding of the five thousand men plus women and children. Jesus sends the disciples away by boat, and dismisses the crowd. Jesus is left to be alone for the night. A strong wind whips up the waves for the disciples and their boat makes slow headway. Early in the morning Jesus comes walking toward them on the water. The disciples were terrified. The twentieth century is dismissive. Believers understand it is the presence of the Lord in the midst of the storm of life. The centre of attention is on the interaction between Peter and Jesus. Peter is tentative, "If it is you, command me to come to you on the water." The word of Jesus will enable him to step out into the stormy waves to the presence of Jesus. He steps out of the boat, starts to walk, and then fears and begins to sink. It is what happens at this moment that is the vital key between the world we inhabit and the kingdom of God. Peter does not grasp Jesus hand, it is Jesus who grasps his hand with the word, "You of little faith, why did you doubt." It is the Lord who grasps our hand and keeps us in the kingdom of God despite our little faith and our doubt. When we walk alive to God there is always so much more happening than we know or realise. But the good news is that it is the initiative of God to come to us in the storm and enable us to live in the presence of all that God makes possible.

*In grace and peace,*  
Dean





## PEOPLE NEWS

Judith Johnston  
Earl Gray  
Don Dixon

*Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.*

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 13 – 19 August

*Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger*

### Sympathy

to the Chapple family  
on the death of Reg Chapple  
on Monday 7 August.

A funeral service  
will be held for Reg  
at 2pm on Monday 14 August  
In the Garden Chapel  
at Castlebrook Memorial Park,  
Rouse Hill.



## AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

6 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

13 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

20 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

27 August - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

*Live streaming morning services only*

The Op Shop are in need of a replacement vacuum cleaner. If you have a spare lightweight stick vacuum cleaner that you could donate to the Op Shop they would be very appreciative.

Please contact the church office.

## Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's

Welcome one another,  
therefore, just as Christ has  
welcomed you, for the glory  
of God. (Romans 15:7)



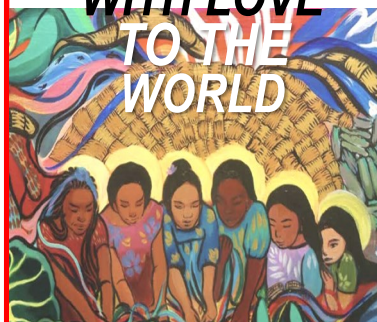
I agree that not just speaking to a new person on their first visit, but following up each Sunday after is so important. It is so awful to turn up to a service where you feel like an outsider, where people look at you but don't say a 'good morning'. Inclusion is the key. I am also terrible at remembering names but that shouldn't prevent anyone from saying 'good morning'. I find a good conversation starter for ladies, is complimenting the person on something interesting or nice thing that they are wearing, if that is appropriate at the time e.g. a lovely handmade jumper or a lovely brooch or scarf etc. Making sure that new people aren't sitting on their own. We need to encourage church members to look to see who is sitting on their own when we walk into church and sit with them. However, I think that the people of St. Matthew's do this most of the time, but not always.

Being invited to come to church events like 'Coffee and Discovery', 'In Stitches', 'Men's Morning Tea' etc, helps makes newcomers feel included and accepted. I was asked to join one of the two book clubs, which was great. I can't remember how I started to help out once a month in the Op Shop, but I really love doing that. I think that we would need to expand the church population a bit more before we can look at a group for people who work full time, people who are time poor, but still that would help make everyone feel included.

Amanda



## CREATION WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



a daily Bible reading  
guide based on the  
Revised Common Lectionary

**Volume 17, Number 4  
14 August**

to  
**12 November 2023**

is available in the  
church foyer.

**Please place \$6  
in offering bag  
to cover costs.**

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.

# Table Talk Conversation @ 6.45pm Worship Community Meal Sunday 13 August

As we approach a referendum later this year on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, we will be holding a Table Talk conversation to dig deeper into the referendum and how we can be better informed around the conversations involved with the vote. This will be held on **Sunday, August 13** as part of the **6:45pm** service community meal. Come along with your questions about the Voice and an appetite for a conversation filled with deep listening. If you plan on attending, please let me know so that we can make sure we have enough food and resources.

Daniel Gibb

## ***Walking Together Workshop***

*Want to learn more about the Uluru Statement from the Heart that is the background for the referendum on the Voice later this year? Here is a great opportunity to do so. Walking Together and Sydney Alliance are running a series of complimentary workshops. The closest one is :*

### **Walking Together - Castle Hill**

Date: Thursday, August 24

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

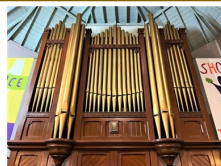
Location: **Rebellion Room,  
Castle Grant Cultural Centre**

(under Castle Hill Library)

14 Pennant Street, Castle Hill

Registration:

[Walking Together Workshop - Castle Hill](#)



## **Organ & Strings Benefit Concert**

**Sun 20th August 2:30pm**

**Leigh Memorial Church,**

**119 Macquarie St, Parramatta**

Tickets \$20 each or \$50 Family (2 adults & 2

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO**



To purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit

<https://events.humanitix.com/winter-classics-concert>



**Come and join us each month for an evening of live music, dinner and fellowship.**

**When:** Aug 20, Sep 17 and Oct 15 from 6-8pm

**Where:** Northmead Uniting Church, 3-7 Hammers Rd Northmead

**Cost:** Donations welcome for pot luck dinner

**Who:** All ages are WELCOME!



For more information contact Noni Medcalf: [nones81@gmail.com](mailto:nones81@gmail.com)